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Secl. II-27—100,000—21-5-48.

Revenue (1948) Department.

175 SERIES

G.O. No.	1228
Dated	21-5-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Prohibition - Working of the Act - February 1948 Board's report - Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract.

Prohibition - Working of the Act - February 1948 - Board's Report - Recorded.

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The taluk and village Prohibition Committees in the old Prohibition districts were not active in the month except in Salem and Chittoor districts. District Advisory Committees have been and are being formed in all the Prohibition districts to co-ordinate the activities of the village and taluk Committees and to enlist greater support from them. Better results are therefore expected in the coming months. Co-operation was forthcoming from the village officers to an appreciable extent in Kurnool, Salem and North Arcot districts and to a meagre extent in Anantapur, Cuddappah, Chittoor, Nellore, the Nilgiris, Malabar, Trichinopoly and Madura districts. Greater cooperation is expected from the village officers in the new Prohibition districts. There was not much cooperation from the officers of other departments in the old districts except Cuddapah, Salem and Coimbatore. In the new districts there was no help at all from them. Outsiders other than regular informers rendered good help during the month in Salem and North Arcot districts.

The month has been one of increased detective activity in Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool districts in which the figures of detection exceeded those of previous months.

II. AMELIORATIVE WORK.

SUBSTITUTES FOR DRINK.

A large number of new tea and coffee stalls ~~have~~ had been opened during the month in several districts. The decontrol of sugar and the slump in the jaggery market have given a fillip to these stalls. The mobile tea canteens of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board at Madura and Vellore continued to distribute tea and snacks to the villagers in those districts. In Salem district, the sweet toddy beverage scheme introduced as an experimental measure in January continued to work under the supervision of the First Assistant of the Board's Laboratory in 2 places.

COUNTER ATTRACTIONS TO DRINK.

RURAL RECREATION: The 104 Rural Welfare officers who were on duty during the month visited 905 villages and organised rural games in 770 villages. 62 tournaments were held during the month. The firka tournament conducted at Puddipatla village in Madanapalle division proved to be very successful and impressive. In Salem district in the Veerapandi firka tournament 3 prominent local villagers presented two beautiful silver cups to the winners.

BHAJANAS, HARIKATHAS, KATHAPRASANGAMS, CINEMAS AND DRAMAS.

Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kathapragangams were held in 1102 villages in the month. Folk dances, dramas or cinemas were held in 487 villages.

BALLAD SINGERS: 58 ballad singers were on duty during the month. They visited 534 villages, organised community singing in 216 villages and trained 1810 villagers in community singing during the month.

GRAMASANGAMS: 496 gramasangams were organised during the month. Out of the gramasangams formed till the end of the month 3715 were active during the month. They attended to various beneficial activities.

RURAL UPLIFT SCHOOLS:- Rural uplift schools were started in the districts of Salem, Bellary, Coimbatore, Malabar, Madura, South Kanara, Guntur and Nellore.

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THRIFT: A total of Rs.7,237 was saved in Hundi boxes during the month in the districts of Salem, Coimbatore, Cuddap Anantapur, Tanjore, Madura and South Kanara for which only figures were available.

COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES: The Ayodyapatnam Wool Carpet Industries Cooperative Society in Salem is continuing to give training to 15 tappers in woollen drugget making. A Cooperative Society for coir industry was formed in Sundaraperumal Koil village in Tanjore district. A leather workers' Cooperative society was organised in Guntur District. The Bukkapathnam Labour Contract Cooperative Society in Anantapur district formed purely for the ex-tappers and ex-addicts was functioning well. Milk Supply societies were organised in Malabar, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and Guntur districts.

LAND COLONISATION SOCIETIES:- The Wynaad Land Colonisation Society was organised during the month. The ameliorative staff in Malabar did intensive propaganda to persuade ex-tappers to settle on lands in Wynaad. In Guntur district 3 Tenants' Cooperative Societies were organised for ex-tappers.

UPLIFT FOR WOMEN: Women's clubs were started in 3 village in the North Arcot district. A singer Sewing machine was purchased by the Arni Ladies' Cottage Industries Society for Rs.300 out of the subsidy sanctioned by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-TAPPERS: The position in the three districts in which the number of ex-tappers is large is given below:-

COIMBATORE: Most of the ex-tappers and their families are engaged in the manufacture of jaggery and there will be no problem of unemployment for them till the jaggery season is over. 127 Palmyrah jaggery societies had been registered and 10924 licences issued till the end of the month.

MALABAR: 8149 tappers were provided with employment in jaggery production in the 51 cooperative societies organised for the purpose till the end of the month.

SOUTH KANARA: 44 cooperative societies were registered for jaggery manufacture and 3,500 licences were issued till the end of the month.

In the 11 Prohibition districts in which the Government have sanctioned the formation of cooperative societies for the manufacture of jaggery including the 3 districts mentioned above 382 societies were found with a membership of 27,809 persons and jaggery worth Rs.9,95,116/- was produced till the end of the month

Prohibition has generally been productive of immense good to the public and is favoured by an overwhelming majority of the people. The villagers are cheerful, better clothed and fed and lead a more peaceful and contented life.

Sd.x x x
16-4-48.
Secy.to Government.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

SR. 15-12-53.

27/11/53.

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